

# Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

Questions/Comments:

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## ***Disclaimer:***

Many articles in this newsletter are submitted by various entities. The views and opinions contained within may or may not be those of Iowa Community Empowerment.

## **Iowa's Summit on Family, Friend & Neighbor Care**

In legislation passed in May 2008, the Iowa Empowerment Board was given the charge to conduct a study of the role that Community Empowerment boards can play in strengthening family, friend and neighbor (FFN) care to help achieve empowerment goals. One of the strategies that was set forth in the legislation was to host a state summit.

On November 10, 2008, over 100 individuals from across the state and across disciplines came together to participate in the conversation around research, policy & practice. Becky Burgart, Iowa Empowerment Board member, opened the day and introduced the first speaker, Dr. Charles Bruner, from the Child and Family Policy Center.

Dr. Bruner framed the day in the context of the following definition of FFN care, "care provided to a child because of the caregiver's close, personal relationship with the family and child generally without payment." He then shared national, as well as Iowa specific data around this issue.

Participants were also privileged to hear from national experts, Nina Sazer O'Donnell, United Way of America, and Sessy Nyman, Illinois Action for Children. They both shared lessons learned and successful strategies as they see FFN care receiving more attention across the nation. Iowa community examples were also shared, showcasing successful strategies in reaching this type of caregiver and therefore also supporting families in Iowa with young children.

The day ended with a facilitated discussion by Rae Anderson of the National Child Care and Information and Technical Assistance Center. Participants in the summit answered the question, "Where do we go from here?" The group was challenged to think of this issue as not supporting either FFN care or professional, regulated child care, but instead to find ways to recognize and support both types of care. Noting that approximately 35% of America's children are in FFN care, this is worthy of continued discussion.

The Iowa Empowerment Board will submit its findings and recommendations in a report to the governor and general assembly in January 2009. The report, as well as information from the Summit, research and data will be available on the Empowerment web site at the following link:  
[http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/family\\_care.asp](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/family_care.asp).

# Update October 2008 – November 2008

**Local Empowerment web sites are available on the state Empowerment website, [www.empowerment.state.ia.us](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us)**

**Go to the Local Areas tab on the home page and click on Map.**

## Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

### Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- ECI Public Engagement workgroup meeting – October 2 & Nov 6
- Meeting with First Children's Finance – October 6, 17
- Child Care Nurse Consultant planning meeting – October 27 & Nov 25
- IAEYC Conference – October 10
- WAGES Awareness Event – October 10
- FFN Summit planning meeting – October 15, 31 & Nov 3, 24
- State Child Care Advisory Council – October 16 & Nov 13
- ECI Congress & Day on the Hill joint planning – October 20
- Shaken Baby Prevention Summit – October 24
- FS Supervisor's Curriculum Advisory Group – October 1
- Ringgold Empowerment Board Meeting - October 1
- Credentialing Educational Forum, Sigourney - October 3
- Empowerment FS reporting requirements training - October 3
- Parent Information Resource Center Board meeting - October 7
- Credentialing Educational Forum, MCH roundhouse - October 8
- Family Support Outcomes Workgroup - October 8
- Prevent Institute Planning Meeting - October 9
- Lutheran Services of Iowa – Inservice presenter - October 20
- SBS Prevention Summit - October 24
- Credentialing Educational Forum, Davenport - October 25
- Empowerment FS reporting requirements training - October 25
- HOPES-HFI Program Managers meeting - October 30
- Family Support Leadership Group – Nov 7
- S-3 National Call – Nov 7
- FFN Summit, Newton – Nov 10
- Open Meetings/Open Records Training – Nov 12
- ECI, State Agency Liaison Team – Nov 17
- PBS State Leadership Team – Nov 19
- IEB meeting, Des Moines – Nov 21
- Professional development meeting with DE – Nov 24
- Professional Development Steering Committee – Nov 25
- Child care training rule change discussion with DHS – Nov 26

### Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Henry County, new coordinator training – October 17
- Creston, SW Regional Coordinators meeting – October 21
- BV, Crawford, Sac board meeting – October 22
- Corner Counties "Give Thanks" Reception – Nov 6
- Dallas County, Conflict of Interest, Board member recruitment – Nov 17

### Annual Report Reviews

- Annual Report Review, Henry County – October 17
- Annual Report review & redesignation prep TA, Adair County – October 22
- Annual Report review & board meeting TA, Madison County – Nov 10
- Annual Report review & redesignation prep TA, Warren County – Nov 13
- Annual Report review, Corner Counties – Nov 13
- Annual Report review, Audubon, Carroll, Guthrie, Greene – Nov 17
- Annual Report Review, Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth – Nov 18
- Annual Report Review, Marion County – Nov 20
- Annual Report Review, Poweshiek County – Nov 20
- Annual Report Review & redesignation prep TA, Woodbury County – Nov 21
- Annual Report Review, Harrison, Monona, Shelby – Nov 24

## Upcoming Events Calendar at a Glance

### Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meeting

December 10, 2008  
Rising Sun Church of Christ  
Pleasant Hill

### Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

December 9, 2009  
West Des Moines Learning  
Resource Center  
[www.earlychildhoodiowa.org](http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org)

### Early Childhood Iowa Congress

February 10-11, 2009  
Airport Holiday Inn  
Des Moines

### Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill

February 12, 2009  
State Capitol Building  
Des Moines

### Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

February 10, 2009  
Airport Holiday Inn  
Des Moines  
[www.earlychildhoodiowa.org](http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org)



- Annual Report Review, Clarke County – Nov 26

### On-site Redesignation Visits

- Dubuque County – October 2
- Black Hawk County – October 3
- Buchanan, Delaware, Fayette Empowerment – October 3
- Polk County – October 7
- Adams County – October 13
- Cass, Mills, Montgomery Empowerment – October 13
- Pottawattamie County – October 14
- Hardin County – October 21
- Story County – October 22
- Johnson County – October 23
- Clinton, Jackson Empowerment – October 24
- Scott County – October 24
- Emmet County – October 27
- Linn County – October 28
- Jones County – October 28
- Boone County – October 30
- Lee, Van Buren Empowerment – Nov 6
- Appanoose, Davis, Lucas, Monroe Empowerment – Nov 6

### Linkages/Outreach Activities

- Iowa Workforce Development conference – October 1-2
- Public Health Fall Conference – October 7-8
- Harvesting Resources for Iowa Communities, Mt Pleasant – Nov 14

## SAVE THESE DATES!

This year, the Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Congress and the Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill will be a combined event in February 2009. Registration materials and event details will be available soon.

The Day on the Hill will be one of the most visible opportunities for advocates to make their case for investing in Iowa's young children.

### Advocacy Resources:

The Iowa Legislature General Assembly - [www.legis.state.ia.us](http://www.legis.state.ia.us)  
Advocacy Toolkit - [www.empowerment.state.ia.us/tool\\_kit.asp](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/tool_kit.asp)  
NAEYC - [www.naeyc.org/policy](http://www.naeyc.org/policy)  
Every Child Counts - [www.everychildcountsiowa.org](http://www.everychildcountsiowa.org)  
It's About our Kids - <http://www.itsaboutourkids.org/>

*Mark your calendar now for both events:*

### Early Childhood Iowa Congress

February 10-11, 2009  
Airport Holiday Inn

### Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill

February 12, 2009  
State Capitol

## Early Childhood Iowa System Building Update:



## ECI Legislation Next Steps

As part of the 2008 Legislative Session, Early Childhood Iowa was officially put into code. As a result of this, the rule around the legislation is in the process of being revised to incorporate legislation (SF 2425) and update the entire chapter as necessary. The benefits to the rule will be to codify and formalize the structure and the work of Early Childhood Iowa. The rule will set forth changes in operational necessities of the Early Childhood Iowa Council, State Agency Liaison Team and the Co-Chair Committee. It will also provide language that creates the structure of Early Childhood Iowa. Below is a timeline for the development and distribution of the rule:

### Timeline:

#### November 2008

- ECI co-chairs provided input on the draft rules
- State Agency Liaison Team provided input on the draft rules
- Governance component group of ECI met to provide input and determine next steps

#### December 2008

- ECI Stakeholders will provide input at their December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - If you would like to attend this meeting email Jenny Hodges @ [jhodges@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:jhodges@idph.state.ia.us)
- Governance group will review feedback from stakeholder meeting and make changes as necessary
- State Agency Liaison Team will provide feedback on the revised rules

#### January 2009

- Rules will be sent to the Board of Health prior to their meeting
- ECI Co-chairs will review and finalize rules at their January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting
- The rules will be part of the January 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Health meeting agenda

#### February

- Notice the rules

#### March

- Rules will have a final review at the March 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Health meeting

\*\*\*\*\*

## Meet New State Team Member Sonni Vierling



Sonni Vierling serves as the First Years First State Coordinator in the Office of Empowerment. Her background is in public health and human services for 15+ years where she worked at the State Department of Public Health providing technical assistance to local maternal and child health agencies, as well as coordinating the Covering Kids and Families Project, and most recently the 1<sup>st</sup> Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative. Sonni also worked at Visiting Nurse Services, a local public health agency, and at multiple community social service agencies where she provided problem-solving support and skill development for high risk adolescents and young moms. Sonni has a BA in Psychology from Grinnell College and an MA in Education from the University of Iowa.

Sonni lives in Des Moines with her husband and her three youngest children. She has a step-daughter age 27, two daughters ages 10 and 5 and a son age 8. She enjoys hanging out with her family and coming up with new and improved ideas for practical jokes.



## Iowa Empowerment Board News

On November 21, 2008 the Iowa Empowerment Board (IEB) met at the Des Moines Botanical Center for their regularly scheduled meeting. After the approval of past minutes and the acceptance of the meeting's agenda, Becky Burgart provided an update of the Family, Friend & Neighbor Summit which was held in Newton on November 10. The study of this type of care, as well as hosting the summit, were activities the IEB was charged with in 2008 legislation. The final report to the Iowa Legislature on behalf of the board regarding FFN activities and recommendations will be available on the Empowerment website in January ([http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/family\\_care.asp](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/family_care.asp)).

Shanell Wagler provided an update of the work of the Fiscal Accountability Work Group. The group provided a recommendation to the board concerning a policy for financial mid-year reporting by the local empowerment boards. The policy was approved. The group also shared an outline of the final Fiscal Accountability report that is due to the Iowa Legislature in January.

The remainder of the meeting focused on the work of updating the Iowa Empowerment Board's strategic plan. The plan will be finalized and presented to the IEB in early 2009. Official meeting minutes can be found on the Iowa Board link of the Empowerment website, [http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/b\\_minutes.asp](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/b_minutes.asp).

The next meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board will be January 16, 2009 at the Iowa Workforce Center in Des Moines.

***How can you be a part of this group?***

## Nominations Sought For Iowa Empowerment Board

Responsibilities of an IEB member can be found on the Empowerment web site, [http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/Common/pdf/ieb\\_responsibilities.pdf](http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/Common/pdf/ieb_responsibilities.pdf)

For additional information contact the Office of Empowerment



The Iowa Empowerment Board consists of sixteen citizen members, six state agency directors, and six members of the general assembly. The state Empowerment Board currently is seeking candidates for citizen members. Citizen members are appointed by Governor Chester J. Culver and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. Interested candidates must complete a gubernatorial appointment resume in addition to seeking a letter of recommendation from their local empowerment board. The gubernatorial appointment resume can be found at <http://openup.iowa.gov/boards/>.

Citizen member selections are reflective of the state's congressional districts to ensure representation from across the state. An equally important criterion is that appointments reflect the ethnic, cultural, social, and economic diversity of our state. We encourage candidates from diverse populations to apply.



## Local CEA Examples of Success!

### **Caring CommUNITY Des Moines, Louisa Counties** (Collaboration)

Here in the Office of Empowerment we hear of so many excellent things happening for children and families across the state, we thought it would be beneficial to share a few with our readers. Each community empowerment area (CEA) was offered the opportunity to share a successful example within the areas of advocacy, results accountability or collaboration for this edition of the newsletter. Here are the local examples we received.

**The** Des Moines/Louisa Caring CommUNITY Board, with assistance from the Louisa County Advisory Board and local service providers, held an in-school provider fair at each of the local public schools at the time of the fall school registration, as well as the three private preschools in Louisa County. The Caring CommUNITY Empowerment Board provided a "bag of goodies" for those families with children age five and under. In addition, the service providers from Des Moines and Louisa Counties provided information about their services at each school registration. They also provided families with take home items and informational brochures.

The families were also given a survey to complete so that we could learn more about the needs of parents and families in regard to parenting skills and parent education issues. This information will assist the board as they do future planning. A drawing was held at each school selecting one family from each school to receive a thank you gift from Caring CommUNITY Empowerment.

(Advocacy) **All** of our legislative reps were invited to our November board meeting and all four attended (Senator Tom Courtney, Rep. Dennis Cohoon, Rep. Tom Sands, and Rep. Dave Heaton). Four providers from DM/Louisa Counties shared a "success story" with the board and the legislators. The legislators seemed genuinely interested and asked some very good questions. We had a great discussion with all who attended the meeting.

### **Marion County Empowerment**

**When** the Marion County Board of Empowerment agreed to lease space in Knoxville for the Baby's Nest, the hope was that other community organizations would take advantage of its central location just off the Knoxville square and its availability at no cost to providers. This has proven to be true. In the first two months of operation, five different programs have used the conference room. Besides the Baby's Nest parent education classes, AEA Early Access, Marion County Public Health, and Crossroads Countywide have all taken advantage of the space. The Empowerment Board itself has used the facility several times. This is an example of the strong collaboration that is traditional in Marion County.

### **FMC Empowerment Floyd, Mitchell, Chickasaw Counties**

*\*As this campaign progresses, information will be shared through the state newsletter and with CEA coordinators*

**FMC** is embarking on a marketing/PR strategy. In December, they will be starting with name recognition PSA's on the local radio station and an interview program that will feature CCR&R providing information regarding toy safety. Laurie Kristiansen, FMC Coordinator will script the program and ads and do the voice-overs. This endeavor will continue with themes for each month following, with the focal point being the FMC empowerment's 10th anniversary. To further piggyback the effort, ads will also be placed on the FMC website. The kick off for this campaign was on Nov 28th with some general "spend time with your child during the holidays" PSA's.

### **Corner Counties Empowerment Fremont, Page Counties**

*\*40 individuals were trained at an average of \$7.00/individual. This collaborative effort reflects an overall savings of \$1,720.00.*

**Corner** Counties Empowerment Board collaborated with Southwest Iowa Home Health (Fremont County Public Health) and Michelle Bolander, a citizen of Fremont County this past fiscal year to offer an affordable CPR/First Aide training to all daycare centers and preschools within Fremont and Page Counties. The Empowerment Board had received feedback from the centers and preschools in regard to their ever increasing expenses that included costs for their staff to be certified in First Aide and CPR. The Empowerment Director and two Board members regularly attend the Fremont County 0-5 Coalition and shared this particular issue with other attendees explaining the financial hardship it had become for the areas providers. Through collaboration with the Fremont Co. Public Health nurse that facilitates this meeting, Michelle was secured to provide the training.

As she learned of the burden of costs for the providers, she offered her time to conduct the training on four different dates free of charge. Every daycare center and preschool within the two county region took advantage of this opportunity which reflects a true commitment to the children and families they serve. The only cost incurred by the daycare centers and preschools was for an instruction booklet and a certification card.

## Woodbury County

To forward the quality in preschool and childcare, Woodbury County's Early Childhood Core Group (the sub-committee that makes recommendations to the Board) recommended that all Woodbury County child care centers and preschools utilizing empowerment funds be at a Level 3 in the QRS and use a research-based curriculum and assessment tool by fall 2009. The Board approved these recommendations. Woodbury County's empowerment coordinator, QRS specialist and child care nurse consultant held required meetings in September and October for all providers affected by this change. Previously, all providers had been required to be involved in a quality initiative, though we've never specified QRS. Many providers already use an approved curriculum and assessment tool. This change will ensure that all children in empowerment-funded programs are receiving consistent education and quality.

We are not recovered, but we are grateful.

Seventy-two child development programs, serving over 7,365 children, in the Cedar Rapids area were flooded in June 2008. The child care capacity with major damage from the 2008 Flood (1,151 children) is equivalent to the combined student population of three elementary schools.

Knowing this, Child Care Resource & Referral and five giant steps early childhood initiative connected child development programs to flood recovery resources; SCORE in Cedar Rapids, Linn County Nonprofit Resource Center (LCNRC), The Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and others. We gathered information and e-mailed/mailed it out to flood-affected centers and homes. We invited representatives from SCORE and LCNRC to field questions from child care programs at a Flood Recovery Open House. Additionally, we worked with The Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce in listing child development programs with their Adopt-A-Business Program.

At the Open House in August, Jean Kruse of SCORE assisted a child development home provider in submitting an on-line application to The Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, and community partner's Job & Small Business Recovery Fund. In October the home provider was awarded \$25,000 in a combined grant/three year forgivable loan. To date several centers and only one home provider have applied and been awarded Job & Small Business Funds.

The Adopt-A-Business Program matches flood affected business with individual or groups of businesses not directly affected by the flood. To date the program has matched five child development centers through their Adopt-A-Business Program. These centers have received advice, funds, space, sweat equity from volunteer employees, and/or moral support. One flood-affected child development center was able to replace their destroyed playground with funds and labor from their adoptive partner and donations from their pre-flood network.

Overall local child development programs have years to go in their recovery. If their immediate needs are not met there will be lasting and profound impacts on young children. Yet we want to acknowledge the business community for a few of their many contributions to child development centers and homes in a time of great need. We do not want to think about where our early childhood community would be today without the business community's involvement in flood recovery efforts.

## Linn County

Robin Robinson  
five giant steps  
Project Manager  
319.739.0094  
[rrobinson@hacap.org](mailto:rrobinson@hacap.org)



This picture comes to us from Marion County Empowerment. These children represent all the children of Iowa. Thank you for all you do each day on behalf of them and their families.

## Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome

By Amber Russell, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa



**Prevent Child Abuse Iowa**  
**[www.pcaiowa.org](http://www.pcaiowa.org)**  
**1-800-CHILDREN**

*Prevent Child Abuse Iowa will be advocating at the Iowa Legislature in 2009 for the development of a statewide program to prevent the injuries and deaths of infants and young children caused by Shaken Baby Syndrome. We encourage you to partner with us in this effort by considering creative ways in which SBS prevention and information about crying can be incorporated into your daily contacts with parents and caregivers. Also, we need your help to encourage our legislators to provide funding for this important issue.*

*If you are interested in learning more about our efforts during the session, please contact Executive Director Steve Scott ([sscott@pcaiowa.org](mailto:sscott@pcaiowa.org)) to be added to our legislative advocacy e-mail list. If you would like more ideas about Shaken Baby Syndrome and its prevention, please contact Amber Russell ([arussell@pcaiowa.org](mailto:arussell@pcaiowa.org)).*

Although parenting can be joyous and rewarding, it can also lead to times of stress and frustration. As parents navigate the stages of their child's development, they are constantly on the lookout for tips on managing challenging behaviors as well as reassurance that they are doing things right and that their child is on the right track. Early childhood professionals and providers play an integral role in providing this information to parents, whether it is about diffusing temper tantrums, strategies for potty training, or the importance of reading to children.

Unfortunately, some parents become too overwhelmed with the stress of their caretaking responsibilities, and the results can be devastating. In Iowa, 47 young children have died from being shaken or slammed in the past 11 years. This number represents a small proportion of the total cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS), including cases where the child lives with severe injuries like lifelong learning and/or physical disabilities as well as cases never brought to the attention of officials. In many cases of SBS, caregivers cite their inability to make a child stop crying as the reason for their violent response.

In the past, billboards and educational initiatives—often hospital-based—have attempted to teach parents and caregivers about Shaken Baby Syndrome and its prevention by focusing on the injuries or death that can be caused by shaking an infant. The primary message has been “Never Shake a Baby,” with programs providing additional advice about soothing infant crying—take baby for a ride in the car, walk and talk to baby—and putting an infant down safely in her crib and walking away if the stress becomes overwhelming. Ultimately, however, education on this issue has been sporadic and inconsistent, with no clear existing model to be adopted for future efforts.

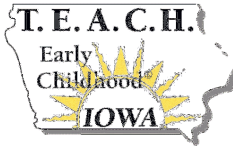
Early childhood professionals can play a unique role in providing further education to parents about the stresses of raising infants and very young children. In addition to advice about coping with challenging toddler behaviors, professionals should talk to parents about infant crying. Research has shown that the amount of time an infant cries can increase from two hours a day on average for a newborn to peak at three or more hours a day by two to three months of age. This is when children are most susceptible to Shaken Baby Syndrome.

Parents can feel enormous pressure to calm their crying infant, especially when in public. Even in the privacy of one's own home, the stress to calm an infant can be severe, and the resulting guilt or shame if the caregiver is unable to soothe the infant only increases this stress. Early childhood professionals should teach parents and caregivers about normal crying patterns and that sometimes crying cannot be soothed. Although the crying will often be associated with a need the infant has—wet diaper, hunger, wanting to be picked up—sometimes soothing techniques won't work, and the infant might just cry. Crying also tends to peak in the evening time, when parents are already tired from the day and perhaps additionally stressed from caring for other children in the home. Professionals can teach parents that this crying is normal and that it will pass, and encourage them to seek help if they are feeling overwhelmed.



**Iowa  
AEYC/T.E.A.C.H.  
Early Childhood®  
IOWA**

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*As an Empowerment partner, you can make a difference by helping the early childhood professionals in your area become aware of all the resources available to them. If you would like a member of the Iowa AEYC or T.E.A.C.H. staff to visit with your group or speak at a conference, call Barb Merrill at (515) 331-8000 (Ext. 11)*

**Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children  
T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA**

***How can we support T.E.A.C.H.?***

Empowerment areas are terrific at promoting T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA as an investment initiative supporting their area's early care and education workforce. Coordinators, Local Board members, staff, and their partners encourage providers and teachers to take advantage of the opportunity to pursue higher education degrees and credentials through T.E.A.C.H. Some Empowerment areas make special efforts to invite T.E.A.C.H. staff to speak at provider events or mini-conferences. Many areas contact us regularly to obtain materials to distribute to programs. We appreciate the good partnerships!

***“After we’ve tried this...what’s next?”*** Several of our Empowerment partners use flexible funding that you may have to encourage participation on the T.E.A.C.H. program. Offering professional development stipends to programs (maybe \$200-500 per year per T.E.A.C.H. participant) gives the programs the opportunity to purchase the curriculum materials that college students identify as lacking in their classrooms. It gives programs a bit of funding towards the required raises or bonuses. It allows for flexibility in decision making about program quality improvements.

***“Should we pay for the T.E.A.C.H. participant share or the center share of the T.E.A.C.H. contract?”*** We don’t recommend you do this, for several reasons. A participant is getting a great deal on T.E.A.C.H. – very few of them have out of pocket costs in any given semester. The contract between the participant, their sponsoring program, and T.E.A.C.H. requires some specific things of all three parties that are joining together to invest in this teacher. The teacher is required to make a commitment to their education and to the center. The center is required to support the teacher’s scheduling, provide release time, and assist with compensation increases. These investments represent a “buy-in” for the T.E.A.C.H. philosophy that we want to support a teacher/provider’s education, compensation and retention **all at the same time**. Sometimes an Empowerment area wants to “help out” a center or participant with their responsibilities. This actually can “backfire”, lessening the teacher’s commitment and the program’s buy-in for the components of T.E.A.C.H. We also do not and cannot collect money back that was paid by an outside funder if the teacher leaves her position at the center.

***“But they can’t afford it!”*** Again, our experience is that most of our scholarship recipients have very little out of pocket costs, and the centers save money with reduced turnover and achieving higher levels on their QRS or other measures. If a center is losing money due to how they provide the raises or bonuses, or the way they offer release time, please suggest they call me or a T.E.A.C.H. counselor for tips on other options they might try.

***“Are scholarships still available?”*** At the current time, we are accepting all eligible teachers, providers, and directors. (To be eligible, one must be working in a regulated child care program in Iowa, and be enrolling in an early childhood degree program.) As money gets tight, we may institute waiting lists again later in 2009. Please contact me if you are interested in supporting T.E.A.C.H. scholarship contracts with local Empowerment dollars.

**Happy Holidays!  
Barb Merrill**

# Scholarship Opportunities Available

The Office of Empowerment has contracted with the Division of Community Action Agencies (DCAA) to provide reimbursement for training to Community Empowerment Coordinators and family support workers across the state.

## CEA Coordinator Training

Scholarships will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Approval of application is dependent upon available funding. **To apply for a scholarship for training you must complete the application, provide an agenda or a description of the training that you will be attending and provide proof of registration for the training you are requesting a scholarship.** Proof of registration can be a copy of the registration from, a copy of the online registration or an email or letter from the training institution that you are registered with.

Please direct any questions regarding either training to Lorie Easter at 515-281-3791 or [Lorie.Easter@iowa.gov](mailto:Lorie.Easter@iowa.gov).

Any Community Empowerment Coordinator is encouraged to apply for scholarships. **Proof of registration and description/agenda of training must accompany the application.** You may either email or send the application, proof of registration and training description/agenda to [Lorie.Easter@iowa.gov](mailto:Lorie.Easter@iowa.gov) or send to Department of Human Rights, Division of Community Action Agencies, ATTN: Lorie Easter, Lucas State Office Building, 2nd Floor, 321 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

The participants will be responsible to register directly with the training provider and proof of registration will need to be provided with the scholarship application. Please direct any questions regarding trainings to Lorie Easter at 515-281-3791 or [Lorie.Easter@iowa.gov](mailto:Lorie.Easter@iowa.gov).

## Family Support Workers

The trainings approved for reimbursement are:

- Family Development Certification through Iowa State University Extension and University of Iowa - National Resource Center
- Healthy Families Iowa Core and Healthy Families Iowa – Supervisory Training
- Life Skills Progression Tool Training (The registration will be paid directly to the trainer for at least three trainings per year)
- Train the Trainer
- Partnering with Parents through Iowa State University Extension
- Combination of Family Development Certification and Partnering with Parents through Iowa State University Extension
- Great Beginnings
- Other related family support training not listed above

The scholarships will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Approval of application is dependent upon available funding. **To apply for a scholarship for training you must complete the application and provide proof of registration for the training you are requesting a scholarship.** Proof of registration can be a copy of the registration from, a copy of the online registration or an email or letter from the training institution that you are registered.

Any family support organization is encouraged to apply for scholarships. **Proof of registration must accompany the application.** You may either email or send the application and proof of registration to [Lorie.Easter@iowa.gov](mailto:Lorie.Easter@iowa.gov) or send to Department of Human Rights, Division of Community Action Agencies, ATTN: Lorie Easter, Lucas State Office Building, 2nd Floor, 321 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

DCAA is working closely with the providers of the approved trainings. The participants will be responsible to register directly with the training provider and proof of registration will need to be provided with the scholarship application. For information about all trainings, please see the FaDSS website [www.iowafadss.org](http://www.iowafadss.org).

# Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI)



Sally Clausen, ARNP, BSN  
Healthy Child Care Iowa  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
[sclausen@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:sclausen@idph.state.ia.us)

## Literacy Toolkit

[www.aap.org/literacy](http://www.aap.org/literacy)

For more information contact  
Tom Rendon at  
[tom.rendon@iowa.gov](mailto:tom.rendon@iowa.gov) or  
(515) 242-6024 and  
Mary Schertz at  
[mary.schertz@iowa.gov](mailto:mary.schertz@iowa.gov) or  
(515) 281.5433.



**Pyramid Model**  
Promoting Social and Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children

**Healthy Child Care Iowa** maintains a list of products that have a warning or have been recalled in the last six months.

To view recalled product information, first select a product category from the following list.

- [Beds, Cribs, and Bedding](#) Read the special alert on infant bassinets  
[Infants Strangled to Death in Simplicity Bassinets: CPSC Urges ...](#)
- [Child Clothing, Shoes, and Accessories](#)
- [Equipment](#)
- [Food, Drug, Medicine hazards and recalls](#)
- [Furniture Related to Child Care and Early Education](#)  
[Infant related products](#) **NEW Category.**
- [Toys and Play Related Items](#) **Healthy Child Care Iowa** maintains a list of products that have a warning or have been recalled in the last six months.

[Sign Up for Email Announcements](#) [\(Español\)](#)

Get free recall and safety news by email as part of CPSC's "Drive for 1 Million" campaign.

## AAP Literacy Kit

This updated Literacy Toolkit is an interactive web-based resource designed for [health professionals](#) to encourage all parents to read with their children. The site is meant to introduce a wide variety of strategies and tools to support the mission of promoting child development and future school success. There are evidence based tips for parents available in a variety of languages for parents of all reading levels, posters, book lists for a variety of ages and topics, and links to many helpful resources. Many of these resources can easily be adapted for use by early childhood professionals.

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## Positive Behavior Support Releases Parent Modules

As statewide efforts to promote positive behavior support (PBS) strategies gain momentum in the early childhood settings across Iowa, a new tool has been released to help extend the benefits of PBS into the home. For the past year, an Iowa statewide team under consultation from the Center on the Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) has designed and implemented training and coaching to encourage the adoption of PBS strategies in early childhood settings in Iowa. Now another tool is available to programs, a series of six modules that help extend the basic philosophy of PBS to home environments.

These modules are perfect for parent education events or meetings that are associated with the enrollment of their children in a preschool or child care setting. They are also ideal for parent support or home visitation programs. The modules help translate the basic principles of PBS into practical tips that parents can use to supplement activities in early childhood programs or create their own intervention project to address behavioral issues among their children. The materials include a facilitators guide and guidelines for engaging parents in conversations about the importance of nurturing positive relationships with their children, understanding the reason for challenging behavior and emphasizing teaching the skills necessary to behave.

The PBS approach is based on the Pyramid Model that encourages focusing on creating positive and structured environment and addressing challenging behavior by communicating clearly expected behaviors and teaching explicitly the skills necessary to follow those expectations.

The CSEFEL Parent Modules are available free (or will be very soon) at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/familytools.html>. Programs considering using the PBS parent modules should have a good background in PBS by attending the preschool or infant/toddler PBS module trainings going on across Iowa.



**Dr. Bob Russell,  
IDPH Dental Director**



## CKF Updated Issue Briefs

The following four Covering Kids & Families Issue Briefs have been revised to include updated data and information:

- **Issue Brief #3:** Presumptive Eligibility for Children
- **Issue Brief #5a:** Expanding Coverage to Children through a SCHIP Buy-In Program
- **Issue Brief # 4:** Paperless Verification of Income for *hawk-i* and Medicaid
- **Issue Brief # 14:** "Express Lane" Eligibility in Iowa

The issue briefs above, as well as other issue briefs and materials created by Covering Kids & Families can be accessed at the following link:

[http://www.idph.state.ia.us/coveringkids/marketing\\_guide.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/coveringkids/marketing_guide.asp).

## I-Smile and PEDS 21

Trisha Willenborg, I-Smile Coordinator from HACAP, and Heather Miller, oral health consultant from IDPH, traveled to Boston, Massachusetts to share a poster on the I-Smile dental home project at the 2008 Peds-21 Symposium: "Something to Smile About: The Pediatrician's Role in Oral Health" sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The I-Smile poster presentation highlighted Iowa's efforts to promote collaboration between medical and dental communities in addressing children's oral health through the "conceptual dental home". Trisha provided information on her role as an I-Smile Coordinator, including outreach to the medical community and providing training and education regarding children's oral health.

The widely attended symposium was held one day before the AAP National Conference and Exhibition, intended to improve child health professionals' understanding of the causes and prevention of early childhood dental caries, the long-and short-term consequences of dental disease, and the impact of dental disease on the individual, family, and community.

Guest speaker **Dr. David O. Satcher, MD, PhD**, the 16<sup>th</sup> Surgeon General of the United States, provided information about systems of care for improving children's oral health. In addition, "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General", which identifies dental and oral diseases as a "silent epidemic", was highlighted. The report, released in 2000, calls for a national effort to improve oral health among all Americans.

  <b>Iowa Dental Home Initiative</b> <i>Healthy Mouths for Healthy Kids</i>											
How I-Smile Began	How I-Smile Works	Why I-Smile	I-Smile Reimbursement Benefit								
<p>In 2005, the Iowa legislature passed HF841 which included legislation that:</p> <p>By July 1, 2008, every recipient of medical assistance who is a child twelve years of age or younger shall have a designated dental home and shall be provided with the dental screenings and preventive care identified in the oral health standards under the EPSDT program.</p> 	<p>Regional I-Smile Coordinators provide education and training for healthcare professionals regarding children's oral health.</p> <p>They also serve as the liaison between the non-dental and dental providers in the I-Smile network and facilitate linkages and a streamlined referral process.</p> 	<p>I-Smile ensures that children receive age-appropriate comprehensive dental care.</p> <p>I-Smile follows the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry's definition of a conceptual dental home.</p> <p>I-Smile allows a team approach to manage oral disease.</p> 	<p>Iowa Medicaid reimburses physicians for application of fluoride varnish in conjunction with an EPSDT screening.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Patient Ages</td> <td>0-36 months</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frequency</td> <td>3 times a year (120 days apart)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reimbursement</td> <td>\$14.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Provider Types</td> <td>Physician, ARNP</td> </tr> </table> 	Patient Ages	0-36 months	Frequency	3 times a year (120 days apart)	Reimbursement	\$14.55	Provider Types	Physician, ARNP
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<p>Oral Health Bureau Iowa Department of Public Health <a href="http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/oral_health_ismile.asp">http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/oral_health_ismile.asp</a></p>											



*There are several training options available for 2009!*

Iowa State University Extension invites professionals to strengthen their knowledge and skills in working with families, and specifically in facilitating parenting education and family development.

**1) Strengthening Skills in Family Development and Parenting Education**

This is a training that combines the Partnering with Parents and Family Development Certification Trainings.

2009 sites are Fort Dodge and Council Bluffs

Details can be found at

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/homefamily/relationships/certificate.htm>

(you may need to copy and paste this URL into a new browser)

**CEUs and course credit:**

Participants can earn undergraduate or graduate credits, social worker hours, Iowa teacher licensure renewal credits, and a Parenting Education Certificate of Completion and Family Development Certification from Iowa State University Extension through successfully completing these trainings.

2) Individuals can participate in the combined training, or in just Partnering with Parents or just Family Development Certification Training.

3) In addition, ISU Extension is offering **Partnering with Parents completely ONLINE**, January 12th through June 19, 2009. Registration and other information can be found at

[www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp)

(You may need to copy and paste this URL into a new browser)

This comprehensive research-based 11 module training series focuses on nationally recognized competencies for parenting educators. Learners interact with facilitators from various states and expertise. Each module contains a variety of interactive learning tools and resources you can use in your work with families. Program evaluation data shows that the training improves participants' work with families!

**Topics** include...culture and parenting, parenting with special challenges, critically examining and selecting parenting curricula, measuring program outcomes, feeding children and physical activities for families, relationship of financial stability to family well-being, understanding parent and child development, guiding children, and much more!

**Scholarships**, funded by Iowa Empowerment for Iowa professionals who work with young children and their families, can be found at

<http://www.iowafadss.org/training/index.html>

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**Check this out!**



The Office of Head Start has released a workbook called Five Steps to Community Assessment: A Workbook for Head Start and Early Head Start Programs Serving Hispanic and Other Emerging Populations on how to do community assessments (CA) that address areas with an increasing Latino population

It is available as a PDF from this link:

[http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/Program%20Design%20and%20Management/Management%20and%20Administration/Community%20Assessment/Community%20Assessment%20Process/CA%20Workbook\\_v1\\_final%20PDF.pdf](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/Program%20Design%20and%20Management/Management%20and%20Administration/Community%20Assessment/Community%20Assessment%20Process/CA%20Workbook_v1_final%20PDF.pdf)



